

Washington University
St. Louis, Missouri
April 30, 1943

Dear Henri,

Thank you for the Reader's Digest. You don't know how much I enjoy reading it.

I'm just back from the library where I have been trying to find material for my research paper in English. I am writing on 'Liberal Arts (or Humanities) in Time of War'. I guess you're surprised that I picked on that subject, but I realize that in the past, I have over-emphasized technical and scientific training. Now, after having read over twenty articles pro and con, I feel that one can live a fuller life when he gets a rounded education. Of course, I also realize that the reason for the great difficulty for niseis ~~is/that/~~ in resettlement is their lack of training in a particular field.

Before I go any further, I want you to ask Tommie to write to me, and answer some of the questions I've been asking her. Please.

Well, as I was going to say, since you are rather interested in surveys, questionnaires etc. concerning adjustments, I am sending you a copy of the questionnaire we are using for a survey of the niseis in St. Louis. This is basically adopted from the original one that some fellow wrote up and was rejected by the WRA. Please look at it and give some concrete criticism on it, but keep it confidential. Next week, we expect to get them back and if you're interested, I may be able to give you the information. We are eventually going to mimeograph the results and send a copy to every camp because the purpose of the whole thing is to help the folks back there get a better idea of life outside.

That's about all for now. So long; I guess I'll never hear from you but I know you mean well. Gee, for a writer, I can't understand it.

Always,
Martha

PS Papa said that he was in bed with a cold for a couple of days about a month or two ago and said you were swell about bringing him his food. Thanks alot pal.

Pardon the typing - it's not all my fault. This is about a 1914 model, which I borrowed.

Saturday aft., May 1, 1943

Dear Tommie,

I haven't heard from you in such a long time I was beginning to worry about you. Papa hasn't written either, but I guess he hasn't much to tell me. Anyway, My letters to him isn't very good since I haven't got a dictionary and I've forgotten so much Japanese. Anyway, please write as often as you can, and see if you could help me with some of my problems.

I heard from Kiku the other day and says that one of the girls who wen to Cal with us, Mabel Fujisaki of Riverside is now in Chicago working in a hospital lab for \$125 plus room, board, and laundry. Wages aren't that good in St. Louis but now I feel more confident about getting a job. Mabel hasn't had much in the line of bac. or biochem, and the kids tell me she wasn't too smart. Kiku will graduate this Christmas and will probably go into Chicago to find employment.

The lucky stiff is only about an Hour from the Big City. She says she is going to work as a domestic for a couple of months in Chicago and the Am. Friends Service found a place for her. (She says I will be able to find a place too. I'd like to go there but not as a domestic. Well, it's May already and I still don't know what I should do.)

Tak sent me the summer schedule of Colorado Aggies and it doesn't have very many courses. Still, if they ~~offer~~ accept all my credits, I can probably graduate this Christmas. Minnesota still hasn't answered me, the big bums. If I'm going to stay here in St. Louis, I have to find a place to live pretty soon.

Perhaps it would be a pretty good idea to get a job for the summer as a lab assistant or something, huh?

If I ask the WRA office in any of the large cities, they might be able to help me. If I go to the right school, I can get through in two semesters but if I saty here, I have at the least three semesters taking 18-19 units. I said one year or two semesters at another sch school because most colleges require that length of time to be spent at their college to get a degree, but I will only 15-20 units.

Gee, this place is getting real hot. It feels like Indian summer in California but so much more humid. What gets me is the hot weather that doesn't kool down in the evening. At one in the morning, it's as hot as the daytime. I sleep with all the windows wide open and only one thin blanket. My sloppy-joe room-mate doesn't wear any bed covers. Geemuny, she's about the sloppiest girl I ever saw. If I have the time next week, I'm going to buy a cotton dress. They are quite expensive but I sure need something to keep me cool. If you can, I'd appreciate a wash dress made with some of the material I have.

What are you doing now, and what are your plans for the future? What happened to the Kalamazoo deal? They say that Wisconsin has very good climate. Minnesota isn't bad in the summer, but too cold in the winter. I guess Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan are better than Central Missouri as far as weather is concerned.

How is Utah weather nowadays? Utah doesn't have such bad weather does it? However I think it would be better that we get out of that area where there are so many Japanese in a small locality. Chicago is different because it's so large that you just get lost and we aren't as noticeable. I'd like to live in a big city and get a good job, sharing an apartment with some other working girl. At this rate I'll be going to school forever and I'll never grow up. Kiku would be a pretty good room-mate, but she sounds pretty pessimistic about getting a job. She's not taking a technical course anymore.

This week there wasn't much doing around here except I did some very intensive studying. I'm exhausted to say the least. Last night I went to see Noel Coward's 'In Which We Serve' with Al Doi, the instructor in Japanese here. He's formerly from Stockton. I don't know him too well, but he's a jolly sort of person, always chuckling and joking. He's not much taller than I am and rather stout. The picture was very good.

One of the Dental students called me up to go to a movie tonight but I refused because I don't think I want to see another one and anyway I can't stand him. That's good enough reason for anybody if you ask me. (intermission) I just had dinner.

Our food at the dorm is not as good as it used to be. We never have any soup and the servings are very scanty and no seconds.

I'm still working six hours a week but I guess I'll have to withdraw some money from the bank because this month lots of kids are graduating and I think I'd better buy them something. Three of the girls at our dinner table, Peggy Tuttle, and the lawyer, Margaret Echigoshima, I can't think of anything to get for them, but I know I should do something.

I hope you will tell me how papa is too. He worries me, and I often wonder who is taking care of him. Can the Community Welfare do anything to help him? I was thinking how lonely he must be with you folks gone.

Well so long, I'll be expecting a letter from you real soon.

Love,

Martha

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